

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement today to commemorate Black History Month:

“In 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched the weeklong celebration that later became Black History Month, so much history was yet to be written. The African American story had yet to be seen as an integral part of our shared American history, reflecting African Americans’ exclusion then from so many facets of national life. In the decades since, through struggle and triumph, through tragedy and perseverance, by the hands of bold leaders and everyday citizens, we have seen the arc of history bend toward the justice and equality so many have long sought. In Maryland and across our nation, we are enriched by the participation of African Americans in every part of American life – from government to business, from the arts to the law, in science, in education, and in national service. Each milestone carries us all forward.

“While today we live in an America that Dr. Woodson and those of his generation could only dream of, our work continues as we pursue greater opportunities for all and fewer barriers to advancement. The lessons we can learn from Black History help us understand the role and responsibility each of us has in our common duty toward one another as brothers, as sisters, as neighbors, and as fellow Americans. I join in celebrating February as Black History Month.”